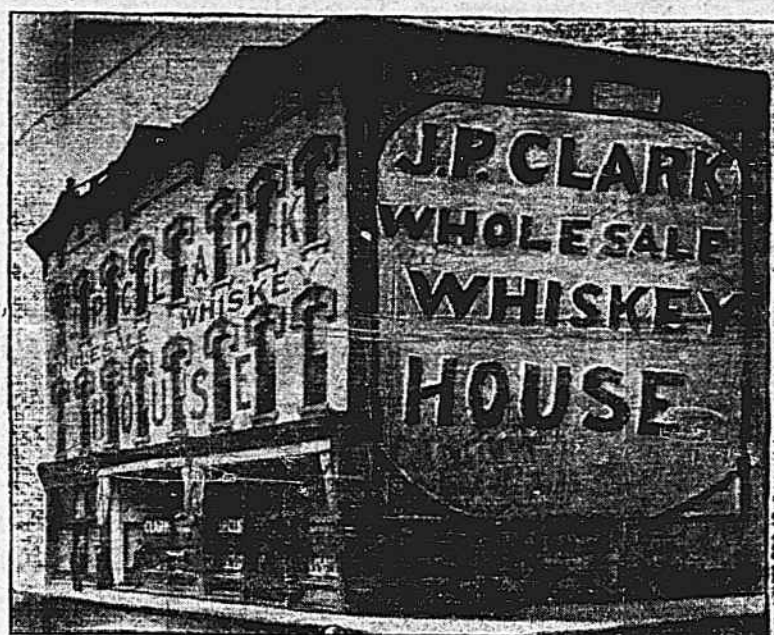


# This is the House That Did the Business Through Christmas

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I want to take this occasion and method of thanking my customers for their patronage, and to wish them a Happy New Year each and every one.



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**J. P. CLARK**

## PASSING COMMENTS

By O. H. Atkinson.  
What is known as craft unionism, is often nothing more than graft unionism.

Nothing bothers a capitalist party boss like a scratched ballot.

It is unlawful for anyone under indictment for embezzlement to hold a federal office, yet Sherman C. Denham is still acting as postmaster at Clarksburg. Special privilege is a great thing.

In its defense of the Clarksburg board of trade, the "more work" and "better pay" argument of the Clarksburg Telegram fell flat. Socialists are teaching the workers that prosperity merely means more successful robbery.

Capitalists care nothing for the lives that were lost in the explosion of the Los Angeles Times building. They would rather sacrifice ten thousand souls than for the working class to have won a political victory.

With the opening of the campaign only a few months away, it is about time for those newspapers that have been talking about the "niggers" to begin referring to them as "colored citizens."

In most of the Ohio cities where the capitalists undertook to pick a crowd with the Socialists in the recent campaign, they were compelled to eat it uncooked.

Dr. H. D. Hatfield wants the Republican nomination for governor. If he gets it, we predict that when the ballots are counted he will conclude that about all the voters in the state are McCoy's.

The leaders of "The Men and Religion Forward Movement" who have just favored Charleston by their departure, are of the same ilk that established godly gin-mills in New York and can always be relied on to ally themselves with capitalist cussedness. It is little wonder that so few local people "fell" to their game.

Among all the insurgent Democratic newspapers of the state, save the West Union Record, there is even a desire to raise the white flag of them are now in a "harmony" don't know why he is

would indicate that they are ready to withdraw the "mit" they have extended to the bosses for the past year.

The editor of Monopoly's Morning Megaphone, of Charleston, is awfully hurt over Socialism's triumphs. Can't some one put a poultice on him? A nice soft one.

The gubernatorial candidacy of Charles W. Swisher was so repulsive to the people in 1908 that they forced him to retire from the race. Now the Republican bosses have the nerve to offer him again as a candidate for chief executive of the state. They will resort to anything so long as they believe that the voters will allow themselves to be duped.

At the beginning of the approaching New Year let every Socialist resolve to do double the work for the cause that he has ever done before. 1912 is a campaign year when will be fought the opening skirmish of the battle from which we will finally emerge the victors. All who can should join a local and every one who calls himself a Socialist should seek by argument, and the distribution of literature, to convert at least four voters to the cause. If this is done we can meet the enemy next November with a solid front and be able to repeat the language of General Grant at Ft. Donelson by demanding of plundering plutocracy, "An Unconditional and Immediate Surrender."

"All I've got against socialism is woman suffrage," writes a comrade from Perry, Ind. This because the women voted against socialism in Los Angeles after socialism had given 'em the ballot. Oh, well, men have had the ballot all their lives and they have never voted socialism in. Why condemn the women for missing the first shot.

When the Grand Jury of Humanity gets down to business with those arch-conspirators, Industry and Capital, federal and county grand juries have nothing to do.

When a tenant gives his land-lord one-third and out of the balance pays his taxes, his merchandise and monopoly profits, why he is a "nigger" don't know why he is

## Otis Fakes About Milwaukee

By Carl Sandburg.

"Rainbows Dissolved" and "Milwaukee Socialists Unable to Carry Out Their Glittering Promises" are headlines of the Los Angeles Times. A list of things promised but not secured by the Milwaukee socialists for that city is then published.

Some of these things have been secured. And wherever a platform demand has not been attained, it has been because of either one of two conditions.

First, the city of Milwaukee in many important, necessary matters, is handcuffed and helpless through state laws. Until the state legislature acts, the city cannot make a move toward certain actions for the common good.

This is why Mayor Seidel in his first message to the common council said, "Before all things, home rule—the right of self-government—should be secured." Over forty home rule bills were sent by the common council to the state legislature for passage. While a larger number of these passed than had been expected, most of them were defeated, and very important rights were denied by the republicans and democrats of the legislature.

The city asked for the right to conduct a municipal loan department, putting loan sharks out of business; for the right to render free legal service to citizens who cannot afford a lawyer; for the right to buy land and construct model homes for workmen. All of these, among others, were denied.

Second, the city of Milwaukee for a half century has been in the hands of political exploiters. For years it was run by a crew of politicians as cunning, resourceful and reactionary as are found anywhere in America.

To coddle the taxpayers, they played the game of "keeping down taxes." And with a wild, shrewd vengeance they played the game. Every payment of cash was put off to the farthest limit of time, through bonds, it was a carnival of long time bonds for short time improvements. For docking and dredging that often lasted less than two years, twenty years bonds were issued. For pavements that broke and wore out in seven and less years, bonds for twenty years were issued.

The city was plunged into debt. One of the first things found by the

socialists on entrance to office was a deficit of \$200,000 which had been carefully concealed by the old regime through the juggling of figures.

Land contracts aggregating \$250,000 came due Jan. 1, 1911. That principal payment on these had been evaded for ten years was not publicly known in the city till the socialists began their "open book" policy. Thus, a third of a million dollars debt fell due on the administration which was meeting debts in a way different from the friended finance methods that had prevailed.

These affairs cut down the amount of cash available for new enterprises in spite of this, however, every step that could possibly be taken toward the realization of the platform demands, has been taken.

When the Los Angeles Times says that the Milwaukee socialists have not brought about city ownership of public service enterprises, it tells the truth. When it says the socialists promised such public ownership it lies. Under its present charter, the city is forbidden from such action.

What the socialists did do was the only thing possible for them to do. They introduced a bill in the legislature asking the right for the city to condemn, buy and operate such enterprises. And the bill was defeated in the Wisconsin legislature, despite all its pretenses to "progressive" principles.

When the Los Angeles Times says the socialists have not established four public markets in the city, it tells the truth. When it tells the socialists have taken no action in the matter, it lies. A public market commission has been appointed and it is a certainty that recommendations will be brought in that will assure the establishment of markets in the proper way in the year 1912.

One market which has been operating for thirty years has not proven a success because of unwise methods. And before plunging into what might be a repetition of this failure, there will be careful thought as to where the markets will be located and how operated.

Two classes are satisfied with conditions—those who have been brutalized by work and poverty and those who live pretty well off other people's toil. To which do you belong?

## Are the Farmers Destroying Capitalism?

By Clyde J. Wright.

"Nine-tenths of the socialists of Texas are farmers," so says Nat. L. Hardy. One half of the socialists of Kansas are farmers, says the state secretary. Let me add that two-thirds of the socialists of Nebraska are farmers. This speaks volumes.

Have our papers neglected the farmers? Yes, just as they have neglected the question of organization. Leading socialists have been heard to say that outside the cities there is no socialist movement.

There is socialism and then there is the power of socialism—the power of socialism is organization. Examine the state secretary's organization maps, if you will, and note the small and numerous country centers that are now being organized, and perhaps for the first time realize that the country districts are generating the heat of socialist organization which is likely to yet burn up capitalism in the cities; while the cities are deliberating upon some technical point of science.

Are you still asking: "Can a farmer be a socialist?"—You should observe that the relative proportion of organized farmers in the middle west as compared to the whole movement indicates that the farmer needs no asking. These organized precincts answer.

The farmers' rebellion in Texas seems to say that there are no more political hayseeds in the country than there are political thin heads in town.

It may be true that there is more glitter in the cities to attract attention, and also that the class struggle is more clearly defined, but this does not tell us that the wage workers are necessarily quicker or slower to understand. But we do know that they are more helpless, more dependent, and therefore have less political independence. Capitalism knows the value and power it has to feed the town man's mind with cheap and unfit vaudeville, detective stories and other sensual literature. What ever may be the intellectual advantages, they are offset by the very poverty which they breed—they teach the wrong lessons.

## A. Hornoff The Tailor Arcate

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The workers have been tricked. Once the fiction of the antagonisms between town and country producers is exploded and these two ends together turn upon the capitalistic "middle," an irresistible force will have been added to the revolution.

## The Sentimental Altmists

By John M. Work.

Someone needs to lay hold of the intellectual collar of the sentimental altruists again and urge them into the socialist movement.

The sentimental altruists have a great spiritual passion for humanity. They fool away their lives working for superficialities. They attempt to uplift particular individuals.

They need be shown as plain as daylight how barren and useless their methods are—at the same time generously giving their organized charities, their social settlements, their leagues and societies and committees and crusades of various kinds, their due.

But, how pitifully little their due is! It is because they want to reach down and uplift the working masses, instead of working with them. The working class has fortunately reached the stage of self-respect. It does not want to be patronized. It wants its just dues.

But, how frightfully hard it is for the sentimental altruist to work with the workers instead of pronouncing them!

They spend thousands of dollars and years of time in efforts to get nowhere—efforts whose results are immediately effaced by the cruel system which causes all society misery.

They do not strike at the root. Their effort have no definite ultimate end in view.

They have no consecutiveness. So, they cannot hold even what they gain.

These people naturally come into the socialist movement, as soon as they learn what socialism really is, because they then discover that socialism affords them the opportunity to do their greatest good, by working with the workers instead of reaching down to them. They bring their idealism and their passion for humanity with them. The movement is a great gainer thereby. They also bring the persistence, the patience, the enthusiasm, and the tireless energy, born of a high purpose. Some of them afterwards go through a stage of impossibilism and loftily scold those of us who were working for socialism when they were fooling their lives away on superficialities.

But, in due time, they come out of this attack of measles, and, after that they settle down and become most valuable workers, uniting their intellect, their efficiency, their common sense, and their passion for humanity, in a persistent fight for the goal of socialism.